

# Arnold Gesell child development lantern slides

Ms Coll 113



Katherine Isham

2025

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Medical Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library  
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203-737-1192  
203-785-5636  
historical.library@yale.edu  
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**CALL NUMBER:** Ms Coll 113

**CREATOR:** Gesell, Arnold, 1880-1961

**TITLE:** Arnold Gesell child development lantern slides

**DATES:** circa 1920-1950

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** .3 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English (Latin script)

**SUMMARY:** The collection includes 51 black and white lantern slides on topics related to child development created and/or used by Arnold Gesell. Slides include text and images of infants interacting with objects, fetal development, and stages of child development. Many images were created at the Yale Child Study Center; some images may have been used in Gesell's publications. The collection was gifted to Fred Volkmar by Arnold Gesell's daughter, Katherine Gesell Walden.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0113>

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Fred Volkmar, 2024.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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## Preferred Citation

Arnold Gesell child development lantern slides. Historical Library, Harvey Cushing / John Hay Whitney Medical Library, Yale University.

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## Biographical / Historical

Arnold Lucius Gesell, psychologist, pediatrician, and expert on infant and child development, was born in Alma, Wisconsin on June 21, 1880. He obtained a B. Phil. from the University of Wisconsin in 1903, a Ph.D. in psychology from Clark University in 1906, and an M.D. from Yale in 1915. From 1911 to 1930, he was Director of the Psycho-Clinic, associated with the Department of Pediatrics and the New Haven Dispensary. From 1930 to his retirement in 1948, he was Director, Clinic of Child Development, which was initially part of the Institute of Human Relations. The Institute of Human Relations was an interdisciplinary center for cooperative research on problems of human welfare at the Yale School of Medicine where research was conducted, including on topics related to eugenics. Gesell served on the New Haven Committee of the American Eugenics Society in the 1930s and his work on physical and mental development and intelligence testing was directly influenced by the eugenics movement. In 1948, Gesell's Clinic was closed and the staff dispersed. In its place, the Child Study Center was established under Milton Senn. Gesell remained a Research Associate in Child Vision at the Child Study Center from 1948 to 1950. Gesell was a pioneer in proposing detailed norms for the development of infants and children. He was also one of the earliest investigators to use motion pictures to capture infant and child behavior for research and education. Children were studied and filmed in a dome-like structure, where researchers could view them from the outside. Several films were made for a wider audience and distributed through Encyclopedia Britannica Films. Gesell also created a number of instruments, tests, and scales for examining children. He was the first author of many books co-authored by staff members of the Clinic of Child Development, among them *The First Five Years of Life: The Preschool Years* (1940), *Developmental Diagnosis: Normal and Abnormal Child Development* (1941), *Infant and Child in the Culture of Today* (1943), and *The Child from Five to Ten* (1946). Many of his articles and some of his books were directed to parents and the general public. In 1950, Frances Ilg, M.D., Louise Bates Ames, Ph.D., and Janet Learned, colleagues and co-authors of Gesell, created the Gesell Institute of Child Development in New Haven, where they and colleagues published books, research papers, and articles for the public; provided developmental tests; and offered the services of a clinic. Early research at the Gesell Institute focused on the child from ten to sixteen, and on vision. Gesell was associated with the Institute until his death on May 29, 1961 in New Haven.

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## Content Description

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## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Child development  
Infants -- Development

### **Genres / Formats**

Lantern slides  
Photographs